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ABSTRACT

As part of the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Youth Education for Citizenship's efforts to assist in the establishment and maintenance of law related education (LRE) projects in every state and local bar association, surveys were mailed to the associations. The results of the survey showed that 49 state bar associations and 133 local bar associations reported conducting law related education activities. This document summarizes what the bars are doing, how they are staffed and funded, and what kinds of materials they provide to educate young people about the bar. The bulletin provides an overview of what is possible when lawyers and educators collaborate. More than half of the state bar associations reported having at least one staff person designated to be responsible for law related education activities. Some of the major functions carried out by the staff are the development of curriculum materials or assignment of topics to members of the bar; providing lawyer volunteers for classroom teachers; setting up mock trial programs or competitions; and conducting court visitation programs. The most popular activities for bar associations are the mock trial programs and the lawyer in the classroom programs. Developing effective LRE resource materials and curriculum requires two kinds of expertise. Knowledge of substantive and procedural law assures accuracy, but must be coupled with educational know-how if complex legal concepts are to be translated into a language young people can understand. Both lawyers and teachers must work cooperatively to combine the expertise of the two disciplines.
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Bar Association Database
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Bulletin

American Bar Association **ABA** Special Committee on Youth Education for Citizenship

Bar Association Database Continues to Grow

by Jane Koprowski-Moisant

Law-related education (LRE) is a vital response to the apathy, cynicism, and disrespect for law that we see all around us. Law-related education works. It's a proven way of improving youngsters' self-image, their attitudes, and their knowledge about law and government. Unless a student understands the reason for a law or a legal procedure, the student cannot truly appreciate its importance nor fairly evaluate it when considering alternatives.

Bar associations are essential to a sound law-related education program in any community. The experience of hundreds of communities, large and small, shows that lawyers and bar associations can make a difference. With the help of bar associations around the country, thousands of young people benefit from an impressive array of law-related education programs.

As part of the Special Committee on Youth Education for Citizenship's efforts to assist in the establishment and maintenance of law-related education projects in every state and local bar association, surveys were mailed in early spring of 1992. Follow-up letters and follow-up phone calls to state and local bar associations were made in June and July. In October, letters were sent to the Young Lawyers Division affiliates to finalize the survey and assure that each bar association program was contacted.

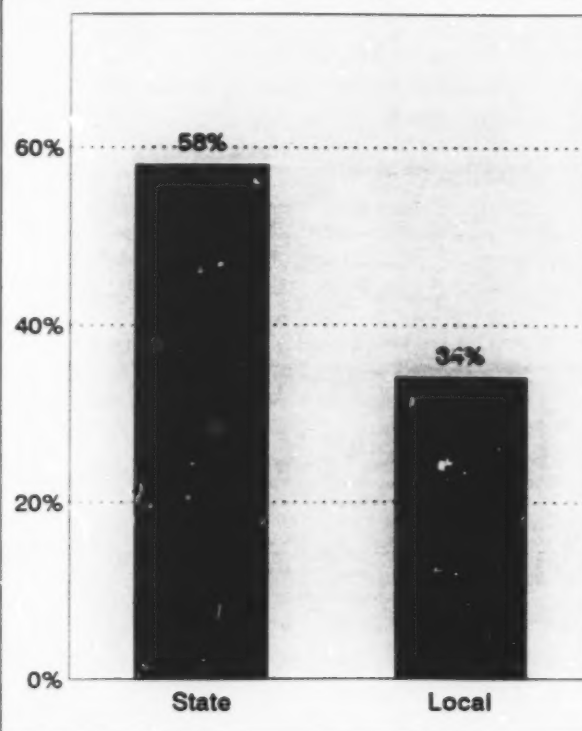
The results of the survey show that 49 state bar associations and 133 local bar associations reported conducting law-related education activities. Here's a quick summary of what bars are doing, how they're staffed and funded, and what kinds of materials they provide to educate young people about the law. It will help you get an overview of what's possible when lawyers and educators collaborate.

Staffing

More than half of the state bar associations reported having at least one staff person designated to be responsible for law-related education activities. Some of the major functions carried out by the staff are the development of curriculum materials or assignment of topics to members of the bar; providing lawyer-volunteers for classroom teachers; setting up mock trial programs or competitions;

Summary Results of Bar Associations Survey

"Is there a staff person designated to be responsible for LRE activities?"



and conducting court visitation programs. Among other bar association and young lawyer division affiliate activities reported were a summer law camp, student government programs, citizenship awards, library programs, and a mini-course for high school seniors.

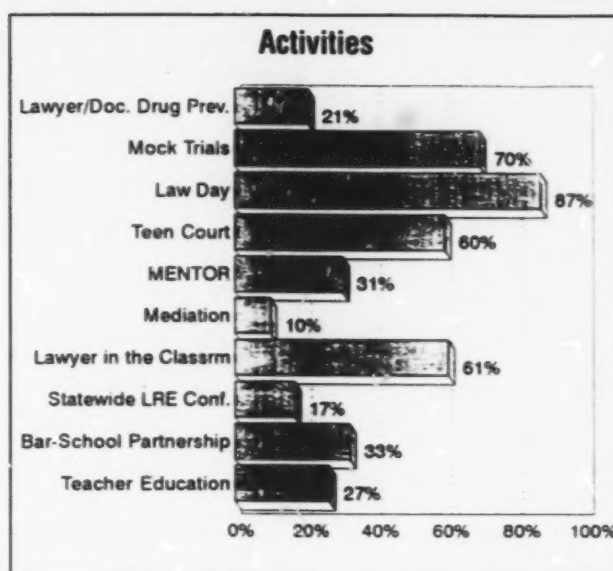
Tom Keefe of the Nebraska State Bar Association (NSBA) spends his summer working with faculty at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and Chadron State College organizing and teaching graduate-level courses designed for teachers. The courses offer teachers 3 hours

of college credit and are designed to stimulate an interest in teaching about active citizenship and our legal system. In addition to teaching, Tom has bar members and other lawyer volunteers take part by sitting in on sessions and sharing ideas and knowledge with the teachers. Throughout the year, Tom works with other organizations to sponsor in-service workshops for teachers at all grade levels and notes that, "We're providing teachers with information and lessons designed to help their students become active citizens which is one of the most important tasks of the NSBA law-related education department."

Tom reports that the most popular program they currently conduct is the Nebraska High School Mock Trial Project in which students work with teachers and volunteer attorneys to argue simulated cases before real judges. In addition, the bar association is about to begin two new and exciting programs. One is the LRE/Juvenile Justice Program in which juvenile correctional facility employees, lawyers, law enforcement personnel, and others will work together to provide young juvenile offenders with a better understanding of the juvenile court system. In the second program, the Nebraska Court of Appeals will hear arguments in Nebraska high schools. The Chief Judge of Nebraska Court of Appeals and two other members of the court will be hearing arguments. Teachers and about 125 students will attend the arguments and be given an opportunity to ask questions of the judges.

Bar Activities

Bar associations have found law-related education a particularly rewarding form of public service. Lawyers don't have to bear the entire instructional burden, but rather can serve as a vital resource to teachers, helping them make the



law come alive for students. The most popular activities for bar associations are the mock trial programs and the lawyer in the classroom programs.

One of the most important activities Eric Mondschein and Gregory Wilsey of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) are involved in is their statewide law-related education conference. Statewide LRE conferences can play a critical role in energizing the adoption of law-related education in the classroom. Law-related education has a proven record of reinvigorating students' learning of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, the Constitution and governmental relations and the key role that the law plays in our public and private lives. The NYSBA's Statewide LRE Conferences have provided a valuable opportunity to bring together the bar, the bench, and primary, secondary and university educators to affect positively the education of young people.

The bar and bench possess expertise in the law and a wide variety of important societal issues that are of immediate value to teachers and school administrators. School teachers and administrators have the expertise in curriculum, first-hand knowledge of their students and effective teaching strategies and the ability to directly impact instruction. Unfortunately, the opportunity for the bar and school educators to interact on a large scale is rarely available without the forum provided by Statewide LRE Conferences. These law-related education programs provide an important public service by bringing together attorneys, judges and others with legal or LRE expertise with school personnel. A well designed and advertised program can also attract many educators already expert in law-related education to present sessions in which they share their knowledge. For bar associations, statewide conferences provide a service welcomed by the community and generate positive publicity.

The New York State Bar Association brings together educators, attorneys, judges and other law enforcement professionals, all of whom deal daily with the successes



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and failures of the educational system. Mondschein notes that, "In this period of potentially great changes in education, it is vitally important for bar association programs to be engaged in helping to determine what is taught in our schools, and Statewide LRE Conferences can be an effective means of reaching teachers and administrators."

Bernard Raverty, Director of Community Services for the Cincinnati Bar Association (CBA) has been busy with two new bar programs: a televised program called, "Justice...NOT? When the Constitution Meets the Campus" and a half-day program targeting vocational school students called, "Join the Legal Team...Career Opportunities in the Law Office."

"Justice NOT?" featured televised panels of Cincinnati high school students, constitutional law experts, law enforcement personnel, a juvenile court judge, a journalist and a high school principal discussing First and Fourth Amendment issues as they relate to student's rights and responsibilities. The program was televised live on the local PBS station and was moderated by TV talk show host Jerry Springer. The program featured two different panels and topics, each of which lasted one hour and had a call-in segment. Each panel consisted of four adult and four student panelists.

One unique feature of the program was the partnerships that were formed with the local high school for the communications professions and the local PBS station. The show was produced at the school, with students doing all of the technical work and aired live with a microwave feed to the television station. In addition to the more than 50 students at the studio, hundreds more were able to watch the program in their classrooms.

The program included a diverse mix of students and schools from the Greater Cincinnati area in a lively and informative debate. The show was a success, and the Cincinnati Bar plans to produce more shows like this in the near future.

In the meantime, to build on the show's success, the bar plans to distribute videotapes to be viewed in schools with a volunteer lawyer in attendance to answer questions and fuel further discussion.

For many years, the CBA has conducted its "Day with a Legal Professional" program giving students from area high schools the opportunity to spend a half day with either a judge, lawyer or paralegal. The program, in which over 100 students participate each year, is designed to give students interested in the legal profession the opportunity to view firsthand what a lawyer, judge or paralegal does during an average day. This program has been very well received by both the students and professionals and has always earned high praise.

This year, the CBA started the "Join the Legal Team" program which is very similar to it's "A Day with a Legal Professional" mentor program, except that it is geared toward vocational school students with an interest in associated legal fields such as legal secretaries and law office management.

Students began the day with an orientation session, and were then escorted to participating law firms for tours.

After the tours, the students returned to the CBA's office for a panel discussion with experts in the career areas of law office management and legal secretaries. To conclude the day's activities, students joined the legal professionals for lunch and a presentation by one of the prominent judges.

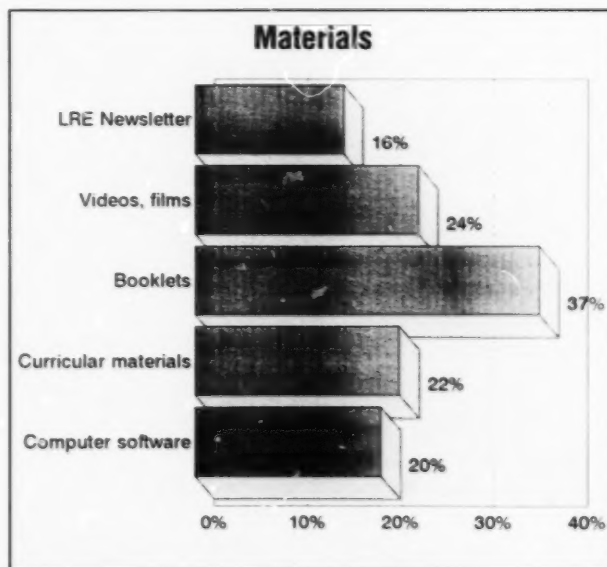
The Legal Team program involved over 40 students and is the first bar sponsored program in the country geared toward vocational school students and associated legal careers.

Materials

Developing effective LRE resource materials and curriculum requires two kinds of expertise. Knowledge of substantive and procedural law assures accuracy, but must be coupled with educational know-how if complex legal concepts are to be translated into a language kids can understand. Lawyers, working without input from teachers, seldom produce law-related educational materials which are practical for classroom use. Teachers, working without the guidance of lawyers, often fail to accurately interpret the law or legal procedures. Only when both lawyers and teachers work cooperatively to combine the expertise of the two disciplines can accurate, effective law-related education materials be assured. The increasing use of computers, videos, plays and projects involving hands-on experience is indicative of a trend to develop non-traditional and innovative methods aimed at making law-related education more meaningful for today's students.

"The purpose of the law-related education programs at the Connecticut Bar Association is to improve students' understanding of our judicial system," states Marion Whipple, the Public Service Manager. While there is staff support for LRE, Marion believes the success of the bar's LRE programs is due to the dedication and commitment of the volunteer attorneys who not only assist with writing, but also help to implement the programs.

One CBA program, Youth In Law, is a mock appellate



advocacy program held in conjunction with the YMCA's Youth and Government Program. Volunteer attorneys help to develop the case, assist as advisors to the students as they write the legal memorandum, and serve as judges for the settlement conference and oral arguments. In addition to this program, attorneys also work in conjunction with the Connecticut Consortium on Law and Citizenship Education, which conducts an annual mock trial competition. Marion expressed that their most enthusiastic sponsors and volunteers are those who participated as judges in prior years and who know how valuable the program is in developing the public speaking and advocacy skills that have been the hallmark of the trials.

Other CBA programs such as the Bill of Rights in Action, continue to be well received by the schools, the students, and the volunteer attorneys who participate. Volunteer attorneys, using materials prepared by the CBA's staff attorneys, make presentations in the schools focusing on the freedoms guaranteed under the first ten amendments to the Constitution.

The Court Visitation Program, jointly sponsored with the state Judicial Department, involves over 1,000 students each year, and gives students a chance to see the inside of a courtroom without being in trouble. Students leave with a much more positive feeling toward the law and the courts, and the volunteer attorneys welcome the opportunity to guide, not defend.

Staff and volunteer attorneys work closely to develop materials for each of these programs, constantly reviewing the programs and the process to improve program content and to make the program more widely available to Connecticut students. CBA Public Service Manager Marion Whipple notes that it was a challenge at first to get volunteer attorneys on board because they either weren't sure what was being asked of them, or they weren't sure if they wanted to be involved. Despite this initial resistance, the CBA's youth programs have become popular with volunteer attorneys, and many, after working with students, have asked to be called upon again.

Funding

Our survey respondents reported that the most common means of funding law-related education activities was their inclusion as a line item in the bar association/affiliate budget, followed by funding from the bar foundation, grants, IOLTA, donations and revenues from products and services.

Linda Start, Executive Director of the Michigan Center for Law-Related Education, shared her experience with the funding the Center receives from the State Bar of Michigan. Although the Center's offices are not located at the State Bar of Michigan, it is definitely a program of the bar, and has received direct financial support from it since 1984. This funding helps support staff of the Center and all programs and services conducted by it. Funding from the bar almost totally supports the Michigan High School Mock Trial Program and the Lawyer-Teacher Partnership Program. The partnership program, which pairs a teacher with a lawyer for an entire school year, currently involves

10 county bar associations, with more than 250 volunteer lawyers participating across the state.

The bar provides other important services and resources in addition to direct financial support. Its Law-Related Education Committee provides an important link to local bar associations, and the LRE committee's chairperson also serves as a member of the Center's Board of Directors. The bar's Director of Communications helps publicize events by arranging for photographers and distributing press releases, while the Director of Lawyer Public Service Activities assists in recruiting lawyer volunteers when necessary.

Law-related education programs play an important role in the bar's efforts to improve the image of lawyers and our legal system. By participating in these programs, student and teacher attitudes evolve from suspicion and skepticism to esteem and trust. And, by taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in these programs, lawyers come away with a sense of having given something back to their communities in a positive way.

Can We Help You?

For a more complete look at LRE at bar associations, please contact our office to order a copy of "State and Local Bar Associations Law-Related Education Activities." If your bar association is not included on our activities listing, please let us know that you need to be added. We are planning to send out another bar survey in the fall of 1993 to strengthen our data base.

ABA/YEFC also offers a series of bar/school partnership handbooks designed to assist lawyers and educators. These publications provide "how-to" strategies and information for developing law-related education activities:

Law Day Partnerships: helps lawyers and educators improve and expand on their Law Day programs.

Lawyers in the Classroom: contains advice for lawyers volunteering as classroom resource persons.

One-Day LRE Conferences: provides "how-to" advice on holding a one-day conference on law-related education, with sample letters, forms and agendas.

Sure-Fire Presentations: offers classroom strategies for teaching elementary and secondary students about the law.

Putting on Mock Trials: aids teachers and lawyers in setting up a mock trial for students; includes sample trials.

Establishing Links to the Schools: assists community volunteers in LRE to form successful partnership programs with schools.

Business-School Cooperatives: outlines techniques to build effective relationships between schools and the business community.

The Court and the Schools: details ways in which judges and other court personnel can become involved in LRE programs.

Police-School Partnerships: illustrates how law enforcement officers may be used to increase knowledge about the law and establish positive contact with young people.

Perspectives on LRE in the Year 2000: addresses emerging issues such as student demographics, curricular change, teacher education, and institutionalizing LRE.